Report finds University must cut staff, consolidate programs to avoid $10 million deficit

By Albert Chang-Yoo

On Sept. 26, 2022 the Comprehensive Academic, Administrative and Auxiliary Program Review (AAAPR) submitted a lengthy list of recommendations to combat the University’s financial woes. The review found that in order to avoid an expected $10 million deficit by 2025, the University must make significant changes, including faculty downsizing and program consolidation. President Crawford will submit a preliminary report to the Board of Trustees today and final recommendations will be voted on in February.

The Comprehensive Academic, Administrative & Auxiliary Program Review was created by the University of Puget Sound to evaluate the financial sustainability of all academic departments and non-academic centers. The Board of Trustees first approved the review in June 2021 and the Review took about a full year to submit a report. The 40 members on the Program Review Steering Committee represented faculty, staff, the Board of Trustees, students, and alumni. The University also hired Stevens Strategy, a higher education strategic consulting firm, to help with committee review. The full AAAPR report was released to the campus community Monday, Oct. 10th. After feedback submission closed on October 17, the report was made private to protect confidential information.

In total, the campus community was given a week to review the 160-page report and submit their feedback. For the past decade, the University has faced declining enrollment and lower retention rates among its students. According to the AAAPR report, the University estimates a total undergraduate body of 1,682 students by 2025, a decline of about 1,000 students since 2015.

"a decline of about 1,000 students since 2015"

The review report based its recommendations on a slightly larger number of 1,782 undergraduate students. The decline in enrollment has left the University searching for ways to reverse its finances. The report recommends reducing the number of undergraduate faculty by 18% or by 35 full-time positions by the fiscal year of 2025.

"The report recommends reducing the number of undergraduate faculty by 18%"

The faculty cuts would ultimately save about $4 million. Additionally, the report calls for consolidation of the arts and humanities programs rather than program elimination. The hope is to make departments more streamlined while preventing extra costs.

The AAAPR report called for the creation of a college of graduate studies, something that the University currently lacks. The college would lead to the creation of 1-2 new graduate programs. It also recommended the creation of a residential community for students of color, who generally have lower retention rates than white students.

The report touched almost every part of the University. It found that the Logger Store ran at a loss for the past six out of eight years and recommended either changing the store’s location or outsourcing. Faculty support for ASUPS is also lacking, having one full-time and one part-time employee. Although the athletics department recently received a $10 million donation, the report found that the University had the smallest budget out of all 9 Northwest Conference schools. Finally, the Office of Institutional Equity and Diversity ranked lower than peer institutions in staffing and funding.

Ultimately, the actual decisions will be made after deliberations by the Board of Trustees. The board is faced with balancing lacking finances with investments into student programs. It is likely that when the Board decides in February, they will also be deciding on the future of the University itself. There is an open session Board of Trustees meeting today, Oct. 28, at 1:45 p.m. in the Tahoma Room.

"There is an open session Board of Trustees meeting today, Oct. 28, at 1:45 p.m. in the Tahoma Room."

The list of recommendations approved by President Crawford will be presented at the meeting.

Puget Sound women's soccer present during PLU lockdown

By Emma Loenicker

At 2:54 pm on Sept. 21st, 2022, Pacific Lutheran University was locked down after multiple eyewitnesses reported sightings of an armed individual on the campus. People were required to stay behind their respective locked doors and to remain quiet.

PLU Campus Safety was eventually informed that the individual in question was involved in a hit-and-run with a stolen vehicle, and had been seen fleeing the collision site armed near Park Avenue, headed towards the wooded area south of PLU’s Anderson University Center. At 4:08 pm, campus security modified the lockdown after reviewing the surveillance footage, and determining that the man had not entered the building. At this point, people were allowed to roam around but still confined to the buildings they were in.

The University of Puget Sound’s women’s soccer team was present during the incident since they had been scheduled to play a game against PLU on this day. Sofia Benedetti, a second-year on the women’s soccer team, said that as they were getting ready to head out to the field to warm up, either an athletic director or a staff member came into the room to inform them of the lockdown.

Benedetti said, “We weren’t getting many updates from people,” adding that the team members were “trying to use the internet to find information, but many didn’t have cell service.” She said that they were locked inside the building for about two hours before they were cleared to leave campus grounds. Their soccer game was ultimately cancelled.

The Pierce County Sheriff’s Department and Washington State Patrol Troopers were called to campus and came to evaluate the situation. Once the officers had swept the campus grounds and determined that the individual had left the premises, PLU security lifted the lock-down at 4:58 pm, after approximately 2 hours.

PLU Mast Media reported the lockdown as the longest in over 10 years.
CDC switches to weekly COVID case reporting

By Hannah Lee

Since COVID was declared a state of emergency by the World Health Organization in January 2020, the CDC has reported daily case numbers. But starting Oct. 20th, the CDC switched to reporting cases and deaths weekly.

According to the CDC, “To allow for additional reporting flexibility, reduce the reporting burden on states and jurisdictions, and maximize surveillance resources, CDC is moving to a weekly reporting cadence for line level and aggregate case and death data.” The CDC’s COVID-19 Community Level ratings, which are a guide to whether or not certain counties should be masking or social distancing to curb hospitalizations, are already updated weekly on Thursdays, and data for COVID cases in the US will be updated on Wednesdays. So what does this mean?

The CDC not doing daily reporting any more follows many states and counties that have also decided to do the same. According to John Hopkins University and Medicine, many states already had varied reporting systems, which complicated tracking the virus — the most recent data is from September.

COVID is not the only virus that the CDC does weekly tracking for — influenza is also tracked weekly. Other forms of the CDC’s online tools are also being scrapped. A self “checker” that helped inform people of when to seek medical care and testing was taken off on Oct. 7. The CDC’s travel notice for the virus that examined cases county-by-county was also scrapped earlier that week.

The World Health Organization continues to label the coronavirus pandemic as a Public Health Emergency of International Concern.

Seward dormitory undergoes renovations as enrollment and retention remain down

By Raka Custer

Following the return to campus this fall, discerning students might have noticed vacancies in student housing: double rooms with only one occupant, empty on-campus houses, and perhaps most notably the completely empty Seward hall.

These absences can primarily be blamed on the lingering effects of a global pandemic. Like many academic institutions around the world, the University of Puget Sound faced a sharp drop in student enrollment due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

Compared to the Fall 2019 undergraduate class of 2,299 students, the total number for the 2020 Fall Semester fell to 1,898. The Vice President for Enrollment, Dr. Matthew Boyce, explained that the University was hit harder than other institutions by the pandemic due to its small size and residential model, but also because of its focus on community-building, which benefits from promoting in-person experiences to prospective students. He said, “Without a massive name in the market, it’s harder to tell that story without being able to use some of the best parts of who we are, which is community and location.”

Since 2020, the number of undergraduates has continued to drop, falling to 1,866 in 2021 — and as of Fall 2022, the undergraduate head-count is 1,712. These numbers align with the national enrollment statistics; according to data on the Fall 2021 semester gathered by the National Student Clearing House Research Center, “Undergraduate enrollment declined across all institution sectors.”

Another aspect of a healthy student population is undergraduate retention, or the percentage of first-year students who return to the University the next fall. In regards to forming strong connections with their peers and environment, Dr. Boyce said, “The first year is the most crucial for all college students,” and that “the university has had ebbs and flows with that.”

Aside from the obvious health dangers, students face mental health and financial challenges imposed by the pandemic, leading many to forgo, alter, or postpone their plans for postsecondary education. During the late 2010s the University’s retention rate for returning second-year students had already dropped, going from 85.9% in 2016 to 76.3% in 2019. While the pandemic did not have an immediate effect on retention, as the fall semester of 2020 had a rate of 88%, it seems as though the repercussions were felt more in 2021, where it fell back down to 78.7%.

The National Center for Educational Statistics determined that in Fall 2020, most private non-profit universities in the US had an average retention rate of 63%, making the University of Puget Sound a positive outlier. One final factor that might contribute to dropping numbers overall is what’s called a “generational cliff” — essentially, there’s just a smaller pool of college-aged people for universities to fight over.

In this fight, bigger and more established institutions have an advantage over smaller schools. However, all hope is not lost. Dr. Boyce, who entered his current position in the summer of 2020, is confident that “we’re on the bounce back,” and that next year will be a true indicator of what the student population looks like in the future.

We may not see a return to a student body over 2,500 anytime soon, but this does not necessarily signal the end of Puget Sound as we know it.
University receives largest ever single donation of $10 million for Puget Sound Athletics
By Audrey Davis, Contributing Editor

On Tuesday, Oct. 18, President Crawford emailed the campus community announcing the commitment of $10 million dollars toward the University’s endowment from the Tom and Meg Names Family Foundation. The donation is intended to aid the college’s endowment for athletic programming.

The gift will be divided, with $8 million establishing the Tom and Meg Names Family Foundation Endowed Fund for Athletics Programming and $2 million going towards the already established Tom and Meg Names Family Endowed Fund for Athletics. The $2 million commitment creating the Tom and Meg Names Family Foundation Endowed Fund for Athletics Programming Puget Sound will support the Performance Success (PS2) Program, similarly funding heightened opportunities for student-athletes. The programs seek to provide student-athletes holistic support in the areas of physical readiness, wellness, and personal and professional development.

“A gift of this magnitude not only has an immediate impact on our student-athletes, coaches, and athletics staff, but enables us to build on current momentum, creating a championship athletics culture on our campus that will benefit generations of Loggers to come,” President Isaiah Crawford said. “While many of our teams have had great success over the years, we aspire to participate consistently in-and win—championships in all of our varsity sports at the conference and national levels. Additionally, this gift honors the legacy of Tom and Meg Names, two proud Logger alumni who remained stalwart supporters of Puget Sound throughout their lives,” he elaborated.

A donation of this size, larger than any individual gift in Puget Sound History, indicates a commitment to investing in Puget Sound student-athletes and athletic programs towards a path of recognition as a premier NCAA Division III program.

The Names Family Foundation was established by Scott and Evelyn Names in 1996. The Names Family Foundation Endowed Fund for Athletics was established in 2009 and was later renamed the Tom and Meg Names Family Foundation Endowed Fund for Athletics. The Athletics and Aquatics Center, Lower Baker Field renovations, Logger Club, and the Puget Sound Fund have also received support from the Names Family Foundation.

The announcement of this $10 million gift came after the release of the Comprehensive Academic, Administrative, & Auxiliary Program Review on Sept. 26, which foresees a $10 million deficit by 2025 if the University continues business as usual. Similar to the gift that funded the Welcome Center, donations of this type can only go toward their specified use. What this addition to the endowment means for the broader financial status of the University remains unclear.

- Adidas cut ties with Kanye West over antisemitic Twitter comments on Oct. 25, 2022
- Russian court upheld Britteny Griner’s 9 year drug smuggling conviction Oct. 25, 2022
- Biden Administration said it has not given up freeing the U.S. Basketball player
- Former Student opened fire at St. Louis high school on Oct. 24, 2022
- The suspects, who died during the exchange, fired more than 600 rounds with an AR-15 style Rifle, killing two and injuring seven
- Giorgia Meloni was sworn in as Italy’s first female Prime Minister, leading the first far-right government in Europe since World War II on Oct. 22, 2022
- Liz Truss resigned as Britain’s Prime Minister after just 45 days on Oct. 20, 2022
- Rishi Sunak is now Britain’s first Prime Minister of color
- Vladimir Putin declared martial law in four occupied regions of Ukraine — which will likely to the whole of Russia soon
- The Kremlin denied reports that 700,000 Russian men have fled the country, fearing a draft
- 70% of Ukrainians wish to keep fighting
- U.S. proficiency levels in reading were below 35% from National Assessment of Educational Progress in 2022
- 450,000 fourth and eighth graders were tested
Hallow’s Eve Hunt

Across:

3. It has the juice, can also be in candy form
5. Used to make fun potions
8. Twilight
10. Karen's costume from Mean Girls
12. Christmas and Halloween film
15. The main form of the villain from the movie IT
17. Weekend of fun
19. Taylor Lautner
20. Undead creature

Down:

1. Knock on a door and ask this question
2. Where Halloween originated
4. Transparent ghoul
6. Film bros love this movie as a costume
7. Taylor swift album
9. Orange friend you destroy
11. Flying vampires
13. Red bodily fluid
14. Home depot sells a 15 foot version of this
15. Sweet treat
16. Stevie Nicks
18. Classic halloween movie

Visit trail.pugetsound.edu for the full mission statement

The Trail is an independent, student-run organization funded by ASUPS. The Trail seeks to produce a credible weekly newspaper that serves as a comprehensive source of information relevant to its readership. The Trail acts as an archival record for the university, serves as a link between University of Puget Sound and the greater Tacoma community and provides an open forum for student opinion and discourse.
Those with a job working for any of the media organizations on campus probably are asking the same thing: where are our paychecks? Since the beginning of this semester, almost all staff members in KUPS, Crosscurrents, Wetlands, Elements, Photo Services, and The Trail have been missing their pay. There’s one thing we can say for sure: It’s no longer in ASUPS’ hands. ASUPS approves budgets and student stipends through a lengthy bureaucratic process of senate meetings, but as of right now, only two positions are sitting on their desks awaiting approval on their part. Thirty-five (35) positions have already been successfully contracted and are set to have received stipend awards between Oct. 21st-24th. Eighteen (18) contracts are still waiting for approval from Financial Services, whom ASUPS has to work with in order to get all contracts approved. Ten (10) contracts are waiting for signatures from student leaders or finance approvers, to be sent to the next step, which is being approved by Financial Services.

Something interesting that students should keep in mind is that a ‘stipend’ is very different from a regular paycheck, at least in legal settings. The University’s student media positions operate off of stipend payments instead of salary or hourly payments since a stipend works more like an allowance to a student or intern. This allows the University to bypass laws surrounding minimum wage since these positions are seen as education opportunities. According to Nate Sansone, ASUPS President, the $296 student government fee, which is included in everyone’s tuition costs, contributes towards paying for these stipends, so students are actually the ones fronting the money for these jobs.

So why have these positions taken this long to be approved or receive pay? Sansone says, “The process for approving paid positions was especially challenging before ASUPS’ fall election as the Senate struggled to meet quorum. Structurally, it is bureaucratic and a bit burdensome, but ultimately necessary to ensure internal equity in ASUPS’ student leadership stipends. The Senate affirmed this importance with Senate Bill 22-209, which commits my administration to ensuring ‘that no additional stipend or piecework positions will be created, and that no payments will be promised for opportunities that have not yet received proper SLRC [Student Leader Review Committee] and Senate approval.’ We are working through this process, and I think we’re on a strong path to ensuring student leaders are paid for their work.” It should be noted as well that other members of ASUPS are working very hard to ensure that our students are being paid. In my interview with several ASUPS cabinet members, they made it clear that they were happy to hear and answer any student’s concerns or questions.

The first batch of paychecks for the year should be in mailboxes this week if your contract was signed at the beginning of the semester. The various reasons behind delays in pay point to larger institutional issues rather than a sole responsibility on ASUPS or any individual.
Devout male feminist shows up to Halloween party in revealing Handmaid costume

By Queen McBean

In a symbolic gesture that nearly moved him to tears, devout male feminist Mark Atwood-Guthrie wore a handmaid’s costume to his office’s Halloween party on Monday, October 31st. The handmaid’s costume in question — popularized by the book “The Handmaid’s Tale” by Margaret Atwood and its subsequent TV adaptation — has become a feminist symbol of patriarchal oppression, leaving many of Atwood-Guthrie’s colleagues with numerous questions about what it meant for a man to wear the costume. When asked for clarification, Atwood-Guthrie delivered an impassioned speech about the significance of the costume as a symbol — a symbol to women that “Atwood-Guthrie gets it.” It should be noted that this self-proclaimed “champion of equality” did refer to himself in the third person. Elaborating further, he spoke at length about how he hoped to use this handmaid’s costume to show his female colleagues that he “knows his place, as a white man, in the fight for equality; standing shoulder to shoulder with [his] oppressed counterparts in the face of the patriarchy.” It was at this point that Atwood-Guthrie opened his costume’s cloak, revealing that he was shirtless and shimmering with what appeared to be baby oil.

Making what his colleagues described as a “desperate, almost last-ditch attempt at flexing,” Atwood-Guthrie explained that he hoped to elevate women with his physical strength and the strength of his conviction in social justice. After this gratuitous display, he turned away from both the reporter and his colleagues, who had gathered around him out of a combination of amusement and vague concern, and affected an expression of constipated contemplation. Speaking in the most pained voice a cis het white male could muster without physical injury, Atwood-Guthrie then attempted to reflect on his own privilege, pondering aloud about how his physical “strength” was the product of being forced to conform to societal gender norms. “But,” he continued, “if I use my masculine physique to uplift women, then that means something beautiful can come out of all this ugliness.” It must be emphasized that this monologue was not prompted by any of his colleagues engaging him about his handmaid’s costume. On the contrary, all of Atwood-Guthrie’s colleagues actively avoided any contact with him, eye contact included. Although this aversion was partly attributable to Atwood-Guthrie declaring his disappointment in the fact that no one else capitalized on this opportunity to take a stand against male domination in our society” at the beginning of the party, interviews with his colleagues revealed that this sort of behavior is not unprecedented. Although dressing in a handmaid’s costume for an office Halloween party — before effectively stripping and beginning to monologue — would seem extraordinary, it was reportedly somewhat tame by Atwood-Guthrie’s standards.

I’m kinda sad that Kim Kardashian is going back to conforming to traditional beauty standards because I feel like I won’t be represented anymore. But being represented by Kim probably isn’t a good thing anyways.

Ah yes, Kim, infamously unconventionally attractive, Kardashian. While Kim K certainly enabled some big body love, that love was conditional on the fact that you be built like a Pixar mom. But hey, if you’re so worried, just convince all your friends that BBLs are still totally in before early 2000’s heroin chic destroys us all.

I dyed my hair the other day and I don’t remember it. What’s wrong?

This sounds like when I get drunk and say the horribly mean things to my friends I’ve been thinking for months but don’t remember in the morning. We both held our feeling in for too long, made a questionable decision, and just because we don’t remember doing it doesn’t mean we won’t be reminded of the consequences. Don’t worry, behavior like this is a form of therapy. Don’t let anyone tell you this wasn’t an appropriate coping mechanism.
Quantum physicists hired to predict midterm election outcomes

By Ishaan Gollamudi

On the heels of a pandemic, the Russian invasion of Ukraine, rampant inflation, and the repeal of Roe v. Wade, and the subsequent wave of anti-choice legislation, the 2022 U.S. midterm elections are widely considered to be among the most unpredictable ones held in recent history. As of this article, major news outlets have amended their predictions over the party favored to seize control of Congress—mostly made them the best candidates for predicting uncertainty. For many, watching Tucker Carlson and Wolf Blitzer argue for the same cause was the clinching evidence they needed that Democrats had truly and completely severed any ties to logical understanding. Moreover, it was reportedly pointed out to these analysts and pundits — by their corporate superiors, no less — that their primary duty was not to dispel uncertainty but foster further uncertainty by standing in front of visually impressive but starkly incomprehensible diagrams and spewing buzzword-laced jargon. While the relative lack of buzzwords in quantum physics was recognized as an “admitted shortfall,” even Tucker Carlson eventually conceded that no one has as much of a monopoly on impressive incomprehensibility, or on profiting immensely from uncertainty, as the average quantum physicist.

Interviewed quantum physicists paid tribute to the groundbreaking work that political analysts had done in these fields, and many expressed a sincere wish to “live up to the standards they set.” At press time, it appeared that these physicists had made considerable progress towards that goal, as the official conclusion reached by every hired quantum physicist team was the same. It read as follows: “So long as nobody checks any of the midterm results, both the Democratic and Republican Parties won sweeping victories, and you can choose which one you wanted to win.” This event has now been dubbed “Schrödinger’s Midterm Election.”
The Happy Trail is The Trail's sex column that seeks to inform the community on issues related to sexuality and gender by addressing these topics in an educational and informative way. Our mission is to make the campus a safer space by normalizing and demystifying topics like safe sex practices, sexualities, and gender identities. Happy Trail correspondents are not medical professionals; if you have a medical concern contact CHWS or a local clinic. Otherwise, direct your sexuality and gender questions to vagray@pugetsound.edu. Readers can respond to Happy Trail articles in the form of a letter to the editor sent to trail@pugetsound.edu.

The Happy Trail is The Trail's sex column that seeks to inform the community on issues related to sexuality and gender by addressing these topics in an educational and informative way. Our mission is to make the campus a safer space by normalizing and demystifying topics like safe sex practices, sexualities, and gender identities. Happy Trail correspondents are not medical professionals; if you have a medical concern contact CHWS or a local clinic. Otherwise, direct your sexuality and gender questions to vagray@pugetsound.edu. Readers can respond to Happy Trail articles in the form of a letter to the editor sent to trail@pugetsound.edu.

So you're a virgin in college......?

By Amelia Pooser

Everyone at some point in their life has been a virgin, a universal human truth. But as universal as this phenomenon is, the topic continues to be taboo. Why? Most are exposed to the topic of sex and virginity at a young age which should normalize the topic but virginity and losing it remains a censored and naughtly topic of conversation. But what truly constitutes virginity? There are certainly pressures surrounding having sex and “losing” your virginity, but this narrative is mainly centered around women who have sex and “losing” it. The topic continues to be a taboo, but this narrative is primarily centered around women who have sex and “losing” it. Why is it that we have sex and “losing” it in college? The topic remains somewhat taboo and I wanted to explore just how illicit it is on this campus.

To gauge general feelings about being a virgin on campus, I put out an anonymous survey that produced some interesting results. When asked why they think virginity is taboo, students had many places of origin in mind, including religion, conditioned awkwardness, and family values. One anonymous student said “People like to attach virginity with moral values, especially in religious communities. Losing virginity can be seen as a loss of innocence.” They continued bringing up a perspective on sexual value, saying, “many people see being a virgin as an inability to have sex. Therefore, something must be wrong with you if you don’t lose your virginity while you’re young.” Being “inexperienced” or “bad” at sex are common insecurities for many and compound the pressures around trying to be sexually active in college. Others elaborated that the whole concept of virginity was over-dramatized, saying, “it’s portrayed to be a milestone in someone’s life by our culture, but in reality, you’re the same person before and after it happens and it’s really insignificant.” The over-dramatization of virginity is ingrained in society as the media sensationalizes sex and the supposedly life-changing journey of losing one’s virginity.

When asked if students felt pressure to have sex either in the past or now in college, many said “no” or “somewhat,” but a few said “yes!” One student continued, “there was so much of me that wanted to get it over with.” Others said there were more subtle types of pressure, saying, “there was smaller social pressures like general talks that I couldn’t participate in which felt like pressure, but weren’t explicit.”

Students were lastly asked if they would have sex with a virgin. There were varied responses; the majority said they would have sex with a virgin and those who said no did not elaborate on their response. One student who said yes said, “There’s nothing wrong with being a virgin. If they’re consenting, why not?” Another student said, “if we were in a relationship I would but not for a hook up.”

While virginity is still taboo, campus seems to be on the progressive side of things. Students understand the pressures of having sex but also the dramatization around something that is simple. Virginity should not be something people are embarrassed about — at the end of the day, virginity is a socially constructed idea that aims to make people feel shameful about having sex or not having sex. It doesn’t matter if you are or aren’t having sex, everyone is still a completely valid human being with normal needs and desires. In the words of a very enjoyable survey response: “would you have sex with a virgin?” “Yes.” “Why?” “Cause sex is amazing.” “Why is it taboo?” “Cause people suck.”

A definitive rundown of Halloween's latest frightening fiends

By Kalen Kelly, contributing editor

Halloween is almost upon us, and it’s been a long time coming. As we all know — or at least, should know — Mothman began as a mid-20th-century legend in the American Midwest. Quickly surpassing other, dumber cryptids like the Jersey Devil and the legends of Loch Ness Monster knockoffs, Mothman boasted a unique modus operandi and visual design. Mothman, see, isn’t content with giving people a quick scare: the creature, taking the form of a headless, winged humanoid with red, beam-like eyes, only appears at the advent of a potential tragedy. The most famous example is of a group of travelers who saw Mothman shortly before a major bridge collapse, but this tale is one of many throughout today’s Halloween canon. The underlying mystery is obvious: Is the Mothman responsible for these accidents, or is it offering a warning? We can, presumably, never know for sure.

When compared with America’s new number one cryptid, Killer Clowns are pretty dull as Halloween huddles. Undoubtedly inspired by the Joker and Stephen King’s “IT,” many Americans have been pushing the “evil clown” as the number one cryptid, Killer Clowns are most certainly not evil. It has a surprisingly sleek visual design, and has been a little diluted by the ironic kitsch obsession of the early 2000s. Lovecraft himself is also famous for being one of the most morally reprehensible horror authors in American history, which adds some nuance to discussion of his work that creatures like Mothman and Killer Clowns can entirely avoid. Despite these issues, though, I can’t bring myself to entirely hate Chhillhu. Any horror monster that encourages people to read books and think about them critically must be worth something, right? All things considered, the new inductees to the Spooky Season catalog have been
In February of 1996, The Trail published a two-page spread highlighting the rise of a variety of psychedelic drugs, including their background, uses, and dangers. They explained why psychedelic users are using an article on illegal substances. "It is becoming increasingly important for college students to understand the effects and dangers of available psychedelics outside of the biased and ignorant light they are most commonly portrayed in by the media and the government."

In the 26 years since Scott Schweggl outlined the pharmacological makeup and effects of psychedelics for Trail readers, much has changed in the world of psychedelics, both on campus and in academic circles. Today, psychedelics blur the lines between recreation and therapy, commodification, and service tool, and science and humanities. Put simply, unraveling the use and view of psychedelics on campus, is, well, trippy.

Given the fact that LSD usage increased by 54% between 2015 and 2018 alone among Americans, according to Scientific American, it should come as no surprise that it took little digging to unearth psychedelic participants beneath the University's shiny surface. Due to the illicit nature of this article, all students are necessarily taken psychedelics for a mystical trip. Sylvia, like many on campus, doesn’t view herself as a traveler, but more as a student, a stronger sense of self compassion, and a break from the drudgery of life. "My state of being is boring. I totally use psychedelics as a way to get out of my own brain and experience the world for what I believe it really is," said Sandra, a senior who is taking two classes related to psychedelics on campus.

Besides their personal benefits, nearly everyone who talks about psychedelics mentions their ability to connect people together. Professor George Erving, who teaches one of two classes on campus related to psychedelics, explained that a sense of communion with others is present in thousands and thousands of trip reports, and describes how the psychedelic literature portrays the experience. "In our normal mindset, we live within the silos of our own subjectivity and attempt to reach out across space, so to speak, to other silos. But the psychedelic experience instead situates the self in a kind of forcefield of betweeness with others," he said.

Students also reported having these kinds of experiences for themselves. Sylvia mentioned that she took psychedelics in Amsterdam when she studied there and became very close with people who she had previously felt separated from. Sandra described how connected she felt to members of her family who had struggled with drug addiction, and how much more empathy there was between her and her family. Sylvia, like many on campus, doesn’t necessarily take psychedelics for a mystical or spiritual experience, although they do recognize that the spiritual experience is an intrinsic part. "I took it and they forget five hours of their earth, and has more consistently positive effects. People have anxiety attacks on weed and they take cocaine and they feel like they are taking Adderall or they take it and they forget five hours of their night," said Sylvia, a senior.

While Professor Erving understands that continuing to prohibit the use of drugs outside of clinical settings is impossible, and maybe not even desirable, he warns that taking the drugs should not be done lightly. He explains how weighty the psychedelic experience can be, according to the wealth of scientific literature surrounding it. "These drugs are work. They take you deep into yourself and they can provoke the most profound questions about who am I and what is the nature of this thing we call reality."

---

Continued on Page 10...
How campus is “turning on” and “turning in” to the new wave of psychedelics

By Andrew Benoit

ready for that, you’re in for a rough ride,” he said.

The deep questions that the drugs raise are part of the reason for the class that Professor Erving teaches. The way he sees it, there’s no way around them, and there is no point in not learning what we can from them. His class – one of the few at the University of Puget Sound focused on the psychedelic renaissance – deals with everything from art, to metaphysics to neuroscience. Professor Erving sees great merit in what he and his students are studying. “It’s not a Fros Frou, sensation- alistic side topic. It’s a really legitimate topic that is really well-suited for liberal arts education,” he said. The wider psychedelic renaissance in academia, which gained popularity in the mainstream partly due to Michael Pol’s book “The DMT Revolution,” which some people feel is a new form of consciousness, is just as complex as the use of them is on campus. Neşe Devenot, a post-doc at the University of Puget Sound studies psychedelics through the human- ities disciplines, sees troubling issues in the field. She explained that the landscape

Who rings the bells on campus?

By Julian Finholm

Everyday at 5 p.m., a song is heard throughout school, emanating from bells somewhere on campus. It rings every half hour, too, reminding us that if we only make it through a bit more of this lecture, we will be free. Churchill is known as the center of a great mystery on campus: Who rings them? What songs do they play? Whom are they for? For whom do they toll?

Out of all the bells on campus, the Kil- won bell is the most enigmatic. The bell is made of bronze. Its sound, the ring of the bronze, is said to be so musical that it was commissioned by the college to be hung in the center of the library clocktower every moment the library is open.

“The chapel bell is an actual bell,” said Devenot. “It’s used in services for religious purposes.” Jay mentioned that, despite still loving the bells, he hasn’t used them in services for religious purposes. “I used to think that anything pro psych- edelics was dope, but it is worth think- ing about more critically,” he said.

To Devenot, part of the real power of psychedelics lies in their disruptive and regenerative abilities. She explains that part of the reason deeply unequal systems are so powerful is because they present themselves as the only way to live. “There’s something about the way that hegemonic norms and ideologies become like the water that a fish swims in – it’s so pervasive that it can’t even be seen,” she said. According to her, psyche- delics allow people to pause and cause them to see things differently. “There is that latent potential of getting people to envision other forms of social relating that are not extractive and exploitative. That can be an inspiration towards changing material circumstances and building a better world that serves all of us instead of the few at the top,” she said.

Many students echoed Devenot’s sentiments. Sylvia mentioned how the things that are important in society just aren’t important when you’re tripping. “The revelations and feelings you get on psychedelics are not compatible with the way our society is set up. We’re very pro- ductivity-driven, independence-valuing, capitalist robots and on psychedelics, you devalue those things,” she said. However, everyone was careful to emphasize that psychedelics aren’t a magic bullet for solving anything. Taking shrooms won’t stop capitalism from exploiting you. Nor will it automatically fix your depression. It won’t even make you a cool person. Both Professor Erving and Devenot, despite their firm belief in the great potential of psychedelics, cautioned students. Psychedelics can be dangerous and are still highly illegal. While some students were excited at the prospect of encouraging other people to take them, Sandra had some reserva- tions. She feels like once people find out how easy they are to access, there is an immediate escalation to taking them. “I just feel like people are like a better education on them before they try them,” she said. An education on something that promises to so profoundly transform our ways of thinking and our culture sounds helpful, even if you never plan on tripping yourself. There is almost no question that psyche- delics are here to stay. With academic, pharmaceutical and financial interests now deeply invested in the drugs, it seems to be only a matter of time before psychedelics become totally mainstream. Whether that happens in the hands of big pharma or in a way that destabilizes exploitative and unjust systems, it’s still too early to say.

Either way, students across cam- pus are learning about and taking psyche- delics. Whether it’s spiritual, recreational or therapeutic, University of Puget Sound students are “turning on” and “turning in” to the psychedelic renaissance. Whether they “drop out,” as Timothy Leary sug- gested in the late 60s, remains to be seen.

Compromised

By Emma Pellegrini

By Emma Pellegrini

Everyday at 5 p.m., a song is heard throughout school, emanating from bells somewhere on campus. It rings every half hour, too, reminding us that if we only make it through a bit more of this lecture, we will be free. Churchill is known as the center of a great mystery on campus: Who rings them? What songs do they play? Whom are they for? For whom do they toll?

Out of all the bells on campus, the Kil- won bell is the most enigmatic. The bell is made of bronze. Its sound, the ring of the bronze, is said to be so musical that it was commissioned by the college to be hung in the center of the library clocktower every moment the library is open.

“The chapel bell is an actual bell,” said Devenot. “It’s used in services for religious purposes.” Jay mentioned that, despite still loving the bells, he hasn’t used them in services for religious purposes. “I used to think that anything pro psych- edelics was dope, but it is worth think- ing about more critically,” he said.

To Devenot, part of the real power of psychedelics lies in their disruptive and regenerative abilities. She explains that part of the reason deeply unequal systems are so powerful is because they present themselves as the only way to live. “There’s something about the way that hegemonic norms and ideologies become like the water that a fish swims in – it’s so pervasive that it can’t even be seen,” she said. According to her, psyche- delics allow people to pause and cause them to see things differently. “There is that latent potential of getting people to envision other forms of social relating that are not extractive and exploitative. That can be an inspiration towards changing material circumstances and building a better world that serves all of us instead of the few at the top,” she said.

Many students echoed Devenot’s sentiments. Sylvia mentioned how the things that are important in society just aren’t important when you’re tripping. “The revelations and feelings you get on psychedelics are not compatible with the way our society is set up. We’re very pro- ductivity-driven, independence-valuing, capitalist robots and on psychedelics, you devalue those things,” she said. However, everyone was careful to emphasize that psychedelics aren’t a magic bullet for solving anything. Taking shrooms won’t stop capitalism from exploiting you. Nor will it automatically fix your depression. It won’t even make you a cool person. Both Professor Erving and Devenot, despite their firm belief in the great potential of psychedelics, cautioned students. Psychedelics can be dangerous and are still highly illegal. While some students were excited at the prospect of encouraging other people to take them, Sandra had some reserva- tions. She feels like once people find out how easy they are to access, there is an immediate escalation to taking them. “I just feel like people are like a better education on them before they try them,” she said. An education on something that promises to so profoundly transform our ways of thinking and our culture sounds helpful, even if you never plan on tripping yourself. There is almost no question that psyche- delics are here to stay. With academic, pharmaceutical and financial interests now deeply invested in the drugs, it seems to be only a matter of time before psychedelics become totally mainstream. Whether that happens in the hands of big pharma or in a way that destabilizes exploitative and unjust systems, it’s still too early to say.

Either way, students across cam- pus are learning about and taking psyche- delics. Whether it’s spiritual, recreational or therapeutic, University of Puget Sound students are “turning on” and “turning in” to the psychedelic renaissance. Whether they “drop out,” as Timothy Leary sug- gested in the late 60s, remains to be seen.
Mt. Tahoma, that looming vista in the distance, might just be the most dangerous volcano in the U.S. Surrounded by glaciers, overdue for an eruption and close to several major population centers, her eruption would not be a subtle thing. This is not the worst of it for the PNW, either, situated as the region is across the Cascadia subduction zone. That’s right: we here at the University of Puget Sound stand in the potential blast zones of not one, but two major natural disasters, caught between the “Devastating Volcano” and “Catastrophic Earthquake” double feature. Now, I understand the instinct to panic; dropping out and moving to the exact middle of the country may seem like an appealing option, but let’s take a look at the specifics of what these events could look like.

Starting with our beloved Rainier, the chief threat posed by an eruption would be the lahars — dangerous flows of water, sasot and volcanic mud capable of ridicu-
sous speeds — that would almost certainly follow. As it stands, Rainier has 25 glaciers that contain close to five times as much water as the rest of the Cascade volcanoes put together. While it’s easy to imagine the lava, ash, or other more apocalyptic dangers of volcanic eruptions, the real danger to Washington would be these la-
hars, fueled by glaciers, that could sweep all the way to the Sound. According to an article published on Snow Bronius’ website, the flows would likely annihilate anything in their way as they rushed to meet the sea, making lava the absolute least of our concerns. We’re not, however, immedi-
ately doomed should the mountain lose its cool; three of the four main river valleys surrounding Rainier have dams that could, if drained in time, seriously slow down any mudflows.

This is saying nothing of “The Big One,” the catastrophic earthquake/tumani
double punch that is slated to happen when the Cascadia subduction zone finally reaches its long-overdue breaking point, seeing our continental plate suddenly snap over another and lose dozens of feet of elevation in a second. Along the Interstate 5 route, estimates suggest it would take 1-3 months to get water and sewage working, 6-12 months to restore major highways and over 12 months to get health care facilities back up, according to the New Yorker. This is to say nothing of the coast-
line cities, the places where people simply won’t be able to get away. It gets worse.

Brave as we fall down the doom spiral, though, let’s talk about the M9 Project: centered at the University of Washing-
ton, the project is a multi-discipline and multidisciplinary approach to Washington for a magnitude 9.0 earthquake. Working with seismologists, city officials, geologists, and other experts, people like Professor John Vidale, director of the Pacific North-
west Seismic Network, are making strides in early warning systems that range from cell phone alerts to broadcasted updates that could give people the precious time they need to get to safety. Even with the possible “big one” hanging overhead, it’s important to remember that there are people working on issues like this, and that they are making real progress.

Disaster in the distance: Mt. Rainier

Mt. Rainier stands in the danger zone of Mt. Rainier, one of the most dangerous volcanoes in the United States. Photo Credit: Andrew Benoit

By Rowan Baiocchi

When in doubt, don’t: cultural appropriation during Halloween

Halloween is the spookiest time of year, with scary movie marathons, candy-induced stomachaches, and creative costumes. However, for many people, Halloween’s biggest fright comes in a much more real form than any ghost story — cultural appropriation. Cultural appropriation is taking aspects from a culture that is not your own, usu-
ally as a form of mockery. This can take the form of wearing culturally important clothing, jewelry, or hairstyles, speaking in an accent or language from another culture, or playing up cultural stereotypes in a disrespectful or insincere way to people within that culture. Common examples you may have seen are white people wearing protective hairstyles such as cornrows, using words from African American Vernacular English (or, as it is now known, Black Language), and wearing sacred Indigenous headaddresses to sporting events.

Kellen Hagan (’24) and Edyn Hawke (’24), Student of Color Community Coordinators in the Office of Institutional Equity and Diversity, noticed an uptick in cultural appropriation around the Hallow-
een season. They hosted the second-annual seminar on cultural appropriation on the Oct. 21st, 2022. The seminar included information on the definition of cultural appropriation, the differences between cultural appropriation and cultural appreci-
atation, and relating the information to Halloween. Hagens discussed the aspect of power that people who appropriate, specifically white people, get to pick and choose parts of culture they like while ignoring the parts they don’t care to repli-
cate or truly educate themselves on. After the event, I was able to interview Hagans and Hawke on Hagans’ KUPS radio show, “Blended” — airing Friday nights at 6 PM — which highlights mixed artists and artists of color. This event was especially important for fall because of “the way people will try to use people’s cultures as Halloween costumes,” Hagens remarked. “Edyn and I really just wanted to prevent hurt.” Hawke agreed, saying, “I think people always want to find a way to dress as something
When in doubt, don’t: Cultural appropriation during Halloween

By Ainsley Feeney

that isn’t theirs…so that can be dressing up as another race, or wearing traditional outfits, traditional accessories, and mimicking things that are really important to certain people.”

When asked how students can avoid cultural appropriation, Hagans and Hawke had the same answer they gave during the seminar: when in doubt, don’t. Hagans said, “If you are second-guessing yourself…first, don’t if there’s an unease there. Second, take the time to educate yourself. See where words come from, see where articles of clothing come from, and you’ll be able to see whether or not it’s appropriate for you to wear certain things.” Hawke added, “There are so many other things to dress up as for Halloween…like we mentioned in our presentation, looking into cool parts of your own culture and taking those.”

So, this Halloween, before donning your costume, ask yourself: is this costume taking a part of a culture that isn’t mine? Am I wearing something religiously, spiritually, or traditionally important to people of another culture? Am I making a caricature of a group of people? If the answer is yes, it may be time to dust off the old ghost or vampire costume and rock that instead.

Horoscopes

Continued from Page 11...

UPCOMING EVENTS

**Off-campus**

FRIDAY

10pm: City Lights - Photobooth, Trindle Hall

SATURDAY

7:30pm: College of Arts and Sciences, Miller Hall

Sunday, October 30th

6pm: Lay Lawlor - The Adelphi concert series is celebrating its 40th anniversary!

MONDAY, November 1st

7pm: Haunted Wheelock - throughout Wheelock student center

Film: Nosferatu - 7p, Rausch Audtorium

TUESDAY

8pm: Blood Drive - 1pm-4pm, Rotunda

FRIDAY

FRIDAY 28

Troy the Million

7:30pm, Norton Clapp Theatre free admission for UPS students

Jacobson: Worst, violin, and Xiaomg Yong, piano

7:30pm, Schnebeck concert hall, free admission for Puget Sound students

BOARD OF TRUSTEES: Open Session Business Meeting 11:40 pm, Tuohoe Room, open to all current University students, faculty and staff members

FRIDAY 29

PBD: Day Hike - Olympic Peninsula KIS, all day, register with PBD in the Exyp (1008 N. Alden)

Troy the Million

7:30pm, Norton Clapp Theatre free admission for UPS students

SUNDAY

SUNDAY 30

The Adelphi concert series is celebrating its 40th anniversary!

4:30pm - 5:30pm, Schnebeck concert hall

Send us events you want included in The Trail’s calendar!

TUESDAY 1

BLOOD DRIVE 1PM-4PM, ROTUNDA

MUST SEE Horoscopes

Aries -Just because House of the Dragon made feet fetishes ok doesn’t mean it is. You may love the foot business you’ve built, but maybe ask your roommates how they feel.

Taurus - Midterms are over so take some time to relax! Sit on the couch watch a show and take some time off of obsessing over your grades to deep dive into your favorite show. Don’t hog the couch though, make room for a new boo!

Gemini - Take time to think before you speak. You may think it won’t get back to the person you’re talking about but we’re a small campus and Opp is even smaller.

Cancer - I’m getting haunted vibes from you this week. So go for it! Decorate your house like a haunted mansion and pick out a plot in a graveyard. You are spooky and you should show it.

Leo - Sometimes you may think that you’re a monster and everyone else is a sexy baby. That’s not true though! You may be a monster on Halloween, but don’t let being overshadowed by the sexy baby vibe you have going all year long.

Virgo - Sometimes you may be living in a reality completely separate from the rest of us, but don’t let that stop you from living up to your full potential. You can and should do whatever you want whenever you want and don’t let anyone stop you.

Libra - Take a bath, light a candle and read a book! It’s self-care week and you have every right to take a break and relax. Don’t go too crazy though next week you gotta get right back at it!

Scorpio - Go get a new tattoo! Sometimes impulsive decisions are just what you need. Break your routine and find a new spice in your life. You’ve been stagnant too long and it’s time to break away from your normal and start something new.

Sagittarius - Go somewhere funny. Why visit your relatives in the midwest when you can book an expensive flight to London and blow all your money on expensive nights out? You deserve it and it’s a totally responsible choice!

Capricorn - I know you may get depressed with the change of the season. Get outside and take a walk! You may be freezing and hate yourself for the first half, but maybe by the end, you’ll be happy.

Aquarius - Your attachment to Taylor Swift is super healthy. Go on that walk! Strut your stuff, you are the queen on campus. Other people might not know it but you are a star and she helps you shine!

Pisces - Take up a new hobby. You may start 3 million projects and never finish any, but that’s fine. Sometimes you just need a new interest to keep yourself entertained and this might be the week to start.